

**SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PHOENIX SOUTH
PRELIMINARY DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS**

SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT PRELIMINARY DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS	PHOENIX SOUTH PRELIMINARY DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant community in excellent condition with all of its vegetative components at or near the ecological site potential (See Natural Communities Condition Table below) • Watershed in excellent condition (see Watershed Condition Table below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant community in good or better condition with all of the vegetative components expected for the ecological site present and sustainable • Watershed in good condition or better

Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) describe the condition of the vegetation and watershed across a broad area or landscape. DFCs will not describe the condition of each individual location in an area, but are designed to provide overall management direction. Across an area, a variety of conditions, from poor to excellent, exist. For example, a vehicle route within the Sonoran Desert National Monument would not be considered in excellent condition. However, the Monument as a whole would be managed to achieve excellent condition.

The Sonoran Desert National Monument Preliminary Desired Future Conditions are in the blue column (the first column, titled Excellent) for Natural Community and Watershed Conditions.

The Phoenix South Preliminary Desired Future Conditions are in the yellow column (the 2nd column, titled Good) for both Natural Community and Watershed Conditions.

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TYPICAL NATURAL COMMUNITY CONDITION CHARACTERISTICS			
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Complex and robust native natural communities that are at or near their potential for the site.	1. Complexity and robustness of native natural communities are somewhat reduced from their potential for the site.	1. Complexity and robustness of native natural communities are further and considerably reduced from their potential for the site.	1. Complexity and robustness of native natural communities are further and considerably is reduced to a minimum for the site.
2. Biological diversity is at or near the site potential, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic diversity in individual species populations • Numbers of species present (ie., species richness) • Plant community structural diversity and densities • Variety of ecosystems across the landscape • Interactions among ecosystems across diverse landscape 	2. One or more components of biological diversity are somewhat disrupted and/or reduced such that site potential for biological diversity is not achieved.	2. One or more components of biological diversity are further disrupted such that natural communities are reduced to an earlier successional stage, far short of the site potential.	2. Multiple components of biological diversity are disrupted such that natural communities are reduced to the earliest successional stage; biological diversity is at a minimum for the site.
3. Ecological processes—such as hydrologic cycling, nutrient and energy flows, predator-prey or parasitic relationships, species migrations, and competitive effects—remain at or near the site potential.	3. One or more ecological processes at the site are somewhat disrupted and/or reduced from their normal potential.	3. Ecological processes at the site further disrupted and reduced from their normal potential.	3. Ecological processes are disrupted and reduced to a minimum for the site.
4. Invasive species, if present, are not disruptive of natural ecological processes (Invasive species, weeds, are uncommon and do not support wildfires, prevent other species from growing or cause other problems).	4. Invasive species are more common, and may begin affecting ecological processes. (Weed inadvertently carried by animals, hikers, vehicles, and the wind become established in small numbers in the area, and may begin competing with native species).	4. Invasive species may be abundant and may have a substantial affect on the natural community through fire, competition, or other forces.	4. Invasive species may dominate in some areas, and these likely are only the short-lived annuals.
5. Community is resilient and sustainable.	5. Community remains sustainable, but resiliency is reduced.	5. Sustainability of community in an advance successional stage is uncertain; community is vulnerable to degradation.	5. Community is sustainable only in its least complex and earliest successional stage.

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TYPICAL WATERSHED CONDITION CHARACTERISTICS			
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
1. Drainage patterns provide soil moisture to existing or desired plant communities.	1. Drainage patterns provide some soil moisture to existing or desired plant communities.	1. Drainage patterns have no effect on delivery of soil moisture to existing or desired plant communities.	1. Drainage patterns impede delivery of soil moisture to existing or desired plant communities.
2. Channel formation in dry washes follows natural runoff processes.	2. Channel formation in dry washes predominantly follows natural runoff processes.	2. Channel formation in dry washes alternates between natural processes and capture by roads, tracks, or other streambed disturbances.	2. Channel formation in dry washes predominantly follows roads, tracks, or other streambed disturbances.
3. Natural ephemeral watering locations remain accessible to wildlife and responsive to the natural rainfall/runoff processes.	3. Wildlife access to natural ephemeral watering locations may be somewhat limited but these locations remain responsive to natural rainfall/runoff processes.	3. Natural ephemeral watering locations are difficult for wildlife to access and disconnected from natural rainfall/runoff processes compared to similar watersheds.	3. No natural ephemeral watering locations remain.
4. Erosion and sediment deposition do not degrade plant community or ephemeral water sources for wildlife.	4. Erosion and sediment deposition are impacting plant community or ephemeral water sources for wildlife.	4. Erosion and sediment deposition have degraded plant community or ephemeral water sources for wildlife.	4. Erosion and sediment deposition prevent establishment of desired plant communities or eliminate ephemeral water sources for wildlife.
5. Infiltration of surface water in soils is sufficient to support existing or desired plant communities.	5. Infiltration of surface water in soils is sufficient to partially support existing or desired plant communities.	5. Surface water does not infiltrate in soils at a rate needed to support existing or desired plant communities.	5. Surface water infiltration in soils is severely impeded.
6. Flood frequencies, durations, and magnitudes are maintained at levels that support existing or desired plant communities.	6. Flood frequencies, durations, and magnitudes remain similar to levels that support existing or desired plant communities.	6. Flood frequencies, durations, and magnitudes depart from levels that support existing or desired plant communities.	6. Flood frequencies, durations, and magnitudes occur at levels that don't effectively support existing or desired plant communities.